

VZCZCXRO2145
PP RUEHFK
DE RUEHKO #2277 1420245
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 220245Z MAY 07
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3779
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - EU-RUSSIA SUMMIT - TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: Tuesday morning's business daily Nihon Keizai front-paged a plan by the US and Japan to cooperate with Australia in research on a missile defense system, with the three countries considering the establishment of a consultative committee later this year. A front-page Tokyo Shimbun story reported on the US Navy's protest against the MSDF leak of data on the SM-3 ship-borne missile system.

1. "Breakdown of EU-Russia Summit: Concern over a 'New Cold War'" The moderate Tokyo Shimbun editorialized (5/22): "With the confrontation between the two sides becoming so sharp, the EU-Russia summit held on May 18 in central Russia broke down. There are concerns that without efforts to improve relations, stability and security in Europe may be placed at risk. Efforts should be made to prevent the emergence of a new Cold War. The summit, intended to conclude a new partnership agreement on expanding energy and trade deals, became a scene of recriminations and ended fruitlessly, with some observers saying that the relationship between the EU and Russia is the worst it has ever been. One factor is that the two sides are at loggerheads over a US plan to deploy a missile defense (MD) system in Poland and the Czech Republic.... Changes of leadership in Germany and France seem to be contributing to the deterioration of EU-Russia ties, as German Chancellor Merkel places importance on relations with the US, and new French President Sarkozy is also considering strengthening ties with Washington.... Cooperation between Russia and the EU is indispensable in addressing not only problems in Europe but also international issues, including Middle East peace."

SCHIEFFER